

PACIFIC SOUTHWEST REGION

STATE & PRIVATE FORESTRY

PRIMARY PARTNERS

California, Hawaii, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Guam, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, 18 National Forests, and other Federal agencies.

FOREST HEALTH PROTECTION

The purpose of the Forest Health Protection program is to protect and improve the health of America's forests through management of native and nonnative forest insects and pathogens and invasive plants and monitoring climate change and air quality impacts to forest health. The program works with partners to create early detection and rapid response to new invasive pests. Financial and technical assistance is provided to prevent, suppress or restore areas damaged by forest pests, to monitor and report on forest health and the impact of climate change, and to advance technology development that improves program delivery.

LAND OWNER ASSISTANCE

The program is targeted at improving productivity and land management practices on non-industrial private forest land, where landowners may not have the knowledge or resources to pursue good stewardship practices without some assistance. Current focus is on assisting states and island partners create a series of GIS data layers and tools to develop a Statewide Assessment and Resource Strategy in order to prioritize forest landscapes and the financial resources of this program.

URBAN AND COMMUNITY FORESTRY

Urban and Community Forestry supports states, local government and communities to promote urban forests and quality of life benefits from those forests such as improved air quality, climate change mitigation, coastal protection, improved water quality by reducing storm run-off, and social and economic enhancement to communities. It provides technical and financial resources for basic

urban and community forestry programs. This includes developing strategic plans, maintaining professional staff to implement programs, and establishing state and local advisory committees that promote community tree ordinance and tree planting activities.

BIOMASS UTILIZATION

The Biomass Utilization Program targets development, retention and expansion of markets, technologies and facilities adjacent to national forests to process by-products of fuels management and forest health treatments. The program focuses on developing facilities that demonstrate emerging technologies for conversion of biomass to heat and electricity, and facilities that convert small diameter logs to useful products.

CONSERVATION EDUCATION

The mission of conservation education is connecting youth and communities with nature, promoting environmental literacy and education, and fostering effective communication amongst regional and local partners. Capacity for this is built at the state and local level through cost-sharing grants.

FOREST LEGACY

The goal of the Forest Legacy Program is to work with states to mitigate forest fragmentation and loss of working forests. This is a voluntary program that supports acquisition of conservation easements without removing the property from private ownership.

ECOSYSTEM SERVICES

This is a new emerging focus within the Forest Service that is working with states and research to evaluate the potential to obtain value from federal and state and private forests for nontraditional uses such as carbon sequestration, providing clean water or other goods and services that are products of sustainable forest management and to establish related policy.